

Senate Resolution No. 3

Introduced by Senators Kehoe and Florez

Relative to low-income home energy assistance.

WHEREAS, The cost of energy for residential use has been increasing dramatically in the United States and in California; and

WHEREAS, Low-income customers are particularly vulnerable to increases in their energy bills for electricity, natural gas, and propane, to both heat and cool their homes during extreme weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, The primary federal program assisting low-income families with their energy costs is the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which provides support both for family utility bill payments and for increased energy efficiency through home weatherization programs; and

WHEREAS, Expenditure for LIHEAP is authorized in the amount of \$5.1 billion in the federal budget, of which only \$2.2 billion has been appropriated by the Congress for the 2007–08 fiscal year, which is not adequate to support the winter heating needs of low-income families for this coming winter of 2006–07; and

WHEREAS, The federally appropriated amount is not sufficient to begin to meet the urgent public health needs in warm weather states such as California and Arizona, which have experienced lethal periods of extreme heat that have killed hundreds of vulnerable members of our populations in the past year; and

WHEREAS, There exists an extensive network of existing LIHEAP providers who are public and nonprofit agencies in the United States, including California, that could efficiently disburse the increased funds that would result from an increased appropriation under LIHEAP for the public welfare; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That California calls on the President and the Congress to increase the federal budget authorization for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to \$7 billion dollars (\$7,000,000,000) for the 2007–08 fiscal

year, and appropriate that entire amount for distribution to the states; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

Senate Resolution No. 3 read and adopted by the Senate May 7, 2007.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate